



02/10/2025

Chair Hudson and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 3011 for continued and expanded funding for Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce Development, with particular emphasis on funding directed toward public universities that operate campus-based childcare and learning centers. These programs are essential for preparing the next generation of educators, providing critical resources for families and students pursuing higher education, and ensuring fair labor practices for unionized staff working at these centers. SEIU 503 has members that work at some of the public universities' campus-based childcare centers, most notably at the University of Oregon and Portland State University.

Investing in early childhood education is one of the most impactful steps we can take to build a strong, well-prepared workforce for the future. Public universities with campus-based childcare centers play a pivotal role in ensuring that both students, faculty and staff have access to high-quality, affordable early learning environments. These centers not only support the education of young children but also serve as vital training grounds for future ECE professionals.

It is important to recognize the significant contribution of the union classified staff members who work at these campus-based childcare centers. These dedicated professionals provide high-quality care and education to children, while also serving as mentors and educators for future early childhood professionals. Their expertise, commitment, and advocacy for better working conditions are integral to the success of these programs. Ensuring adequate funding helps support fair wages, benefits, and working conditions for these staff members, allowing them to continue their critical work without the burden of low pay or unstable employment.

In addition to providing real-world learning opportunities for future educators, campus-based childcare centers help retain students and staff who work on the campus, especially those who are parents. Access to reliable, high-quality childcare allows these students with children to focus on their studies and succeed in their academic goals. Furthermore, staff with children are more likely to stay in their roles when they know that their children are in high quality childcare right on campus. A continued investment in these programs is an investment in the future of early childhood education, the well-being of the families they serve, and the livelihoods of union staff who are dedicated to the success of these centers.

Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1259
Salem, OR 97309-1259

3470 Pipebend Pl NE
Salem, OR 97301

525 NE Oregon St.
Portland, OR 97232

1.844.503.SEIU (7348)

www.seiu503.org



I urge you to prioritize funding for this critical workforce development initiative and recognize the importance of these programs for the future of our society and the workers who make them possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elsie Elling
Political and Policy Strategist
SEIU 503